injurious to the healthiness of its inhabitants, the majority of whom are engaged in sedentary occupations; to counteract the ill effects of which, they ought habitually to take considerable exercise in the open air. But what inducement is there for the weary tradesman to wander up and down streets, the fac-similes of those in which he has all day been toiling? And yet to escape from them he must walk perhaps several miles. There has for some years been a growing sense of the necessity for providing a remedy for this evil; and at length something is on the point of being done to procure open places for public resort and amusement. Were the gardens of all squares opened to the public even for a short time daily, an important step would be taken towards this object; and if casinos were erected in all the parks, where visitors could be furnished with breakfast or tea in the open air in fine weather, the novelty of the thing would attract many, and thus induce some to leave their beds an hour or two before the usual time, and inhale the fresh morning air before it is impregnated with smoke."*

Fortified by such an opinion as this, coinciding as it does so entirely with our own, we do not despair of accomplishing, we had almost said enforcing, the object we have in view. Mr. Curtis is a conspicuous instance of the truth of that proverb which applies to the efficacy of constant iterations and their consequent success. He may be said to have established the benevolent institution to which we have adverted, supported as it now is by the powerful patronage of her Majesty, his Royal Highness Prince Albert, and the rest of the Royal Family, as well as many of the first persons in rank, science, and professional celebrity; an institution which nothing but an unwearying perseverance on his part could ever have established; and which, indeed, was the only one wanting to complete the charitable institutions of the metropolis; for previously there was no place provided for the gratuitous relief of the poor labouring under deafness and other diseases of the ear, and where they could be supplied as they are now with advice, medicine, and, when necessary, with acoustic instruments. We are proud to support or second, in our humble way, so successful a champion of practical philanthropy; and again we fortify ourselves for this new work by a retrospect of what he has accomplished in the past. In acknowledging a vote of thanks at the last meeting of the governors of the Royal Dispensary, at which the Duke of Cleveland presided, he says:—

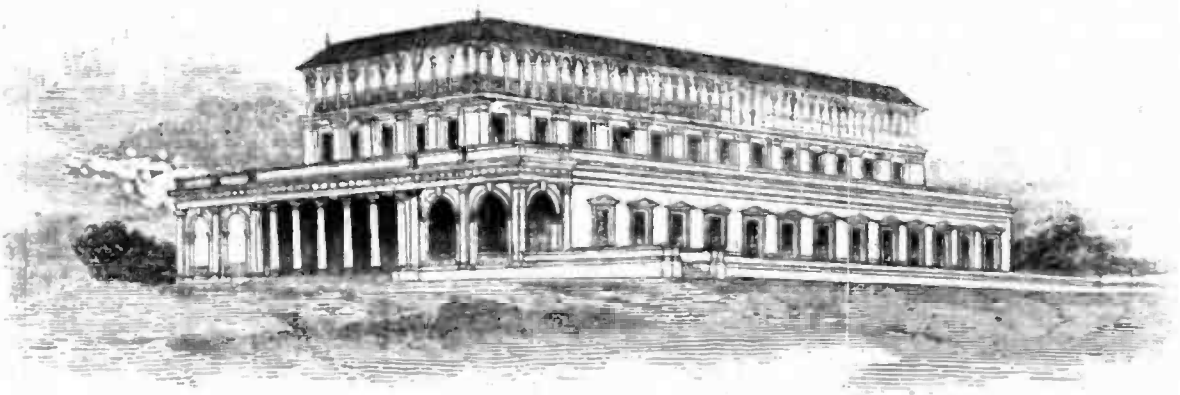
"From the report, it appears that, since the establishment of the charity in 1816, upwards of 13,250 patients have been cured or relieved, and that as many as 180 frequently apply for assistance in a single day." And he remarked, "that most diseases of the ear were from neglect of the laws of health, and might be prevented by the adoption of sanatory improvements."

Yes, sanatory improvements, health-promoting regulations—preventive, and not merely curative—are those we advocate. In the words of the old proverb, we would "lock the stable door before the steed is stolen."

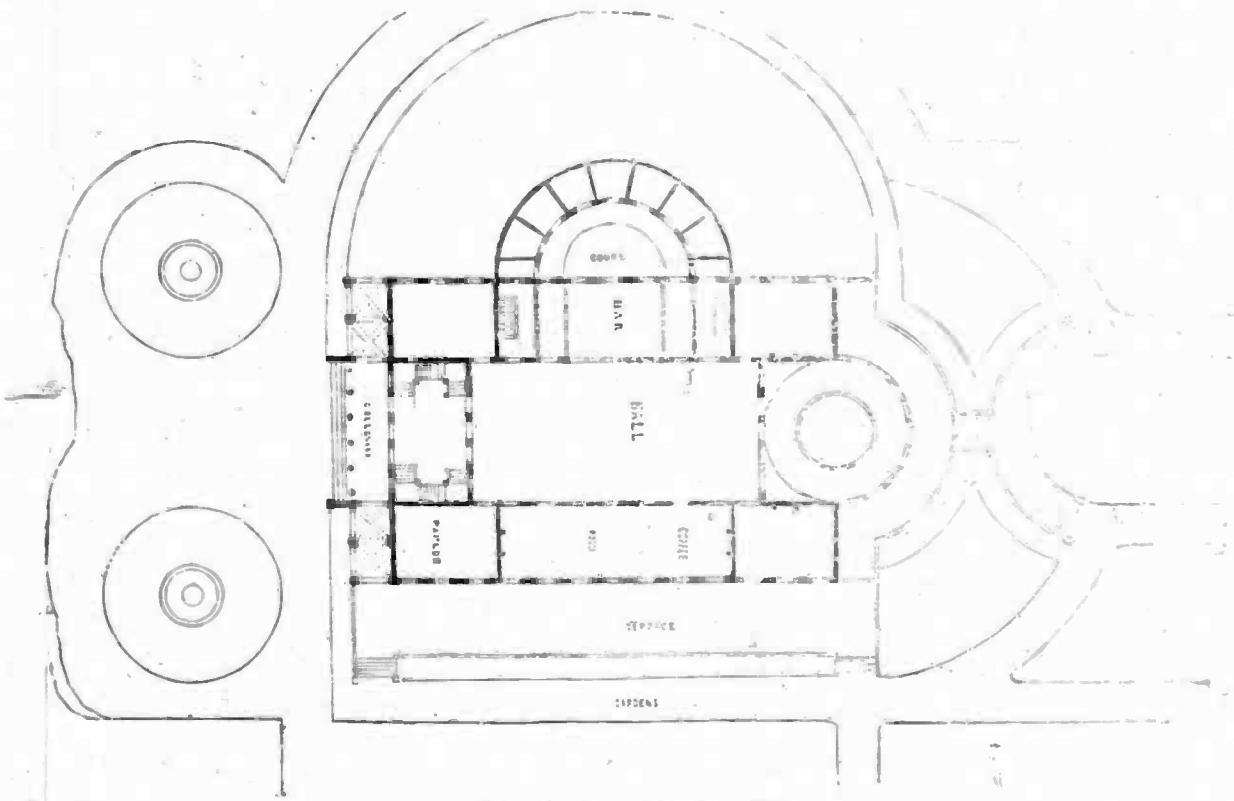
The English people, however, are peculiar in many respects in doubting the efficacy of a thing unless it can be shewn that the cost shall be attended by its equivalent per-centage. As to the parks, we have already stated in our paper that the cost of their maintenance is between 50,000*l.* and 60,000*l.* annually—an amount which we are sure the people do not now begrudge, though it was long before they could be brought to spending it; but as to the cost of casinos, we can shew, and we will do it in Mr. Curtis's own words, that no expenditure over the sum necessary to set up the building will be required. He says: "A large rent might easily be obtained, and the greater part devoted to the improvement of the parks. As a proof of this, I may mention that the rent received for the refreshment-room in the Zoological Gardens defrays more than one-half of the annual rent paid to government for the whole of the grounds occupied by the society."

But it is time to say a word of our plan. We would have the principal feature one large central hall, 70 feet by 35 feet, for common

* "At the lodges to the parks, milk, and curds and whey, can be procured; and there appears to be no reason why something more substantial should not be provided for those who desire it, in the parks themselves."



NORTH-WEST VIEW OF THE CASINO.



GROUND PLAN OF THE CASINO.

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